

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARAE-00 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-02 DODE-00 AID-05 /071 W

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P 281536Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7311

INFO DEA HQ WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1927

CARACAS FOR DEA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR CO

SUBJ: DEA RELATIONS WITH GOC

REF: A. BOGOTA 1819; B. BOGOTA 1874

1. THE FONMIN SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND RAISED THE TOPIC OF THE DAS-ADUANA "SHOOTOUT" AND DEA INVOLVEMENT. THE MINISTER REMARKED THAT GENERAL MATAALLANA WAS FURIOUS AND WAS PARTICULARLY UPSET AT WHAT THE GENERAL CALLED THE "INTERVENTION" OF THE DEA AGENTS IN THE INCIDENT. THE MINISTER THEN ASKED ME HOW THE DEA ADVISORS WORKED, AND I DESCRIBED OUR MODUS OPERANDI AND THE FACT THAT THEY WORKED WITH SEVERAL COLOMBIAN ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. I SAID THAT GENERAL MATAALLANA WAS CORRECT IN SAYING THAT THE CUSTOMS OPERATION HAD BEEN INSPIRED BY OUR AGENTS WITH THE INFO SUPPLIED AND WITH THE PROVISION OF THE CHARTER AIRCRAFT, AND NEITHER CUSTOMS NOR OUR AGENTS HAD CHECKED WITH OR COORDINATED WITH DAS. I POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT OUR AGENTS HAD OPERATED IN GOOD FAITH AND THAT PROVISION OF CHARTER AIRCRAFT WAS SOMETHING THAT HAD BEEN DONE IN THE PAST FOR ALL ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AS A MEANS OF HELP. THE DIFFICULTY WAS THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND JURISDICTIONS OF THE

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VARIOUS GOC AGENCIES WERE NOT CLEARLY DEFINED AND COORDINATION

WAS OFTEN LACKING.

2. THIS LED INTO A LONG AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM OF ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION. IN THE COURSE OF IT, I SAID TO THE MINISTER THAT THE US CONSIDERED THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AS ONE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. WE APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS OF THE GOC IN THIS REGARD AND LOOKED FORWARD TO FRUITFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION. OUR COOPERATION NATURALLY HAD TO BE DEFINED IN TERMS OF WHAT THE GOC WANTED AND HOW IT WANTED US TO WORK OPERATIONALLY, AND WE WOULD NOT ACT UNILATERALLY OR IN WAYS WHICH THE GOC OPPOSED. IN THIS I STRESSED THAT WHILE OUR AGENTS HAD IN THE PAST COOPERATED IN PLANNING OPERATIONS WITH LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENTS, THEY THEMSELVES WERE UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTUAL POLICE ACTIONS, I.E. MAKE ARRESTS, ETC. THEY HAD NOT ENGAGED IN THE SHOOTING IN THE INCIDENT IN QUESTION, BUT HAD REMAINED ON THE AIRPLANE.

3. THE MINISTER LISTENED CAREFULLY AND ENDED BY SAYING THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF GOC ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY STUDIED AS WOULD THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH OUR COOPERATION IS EFFECTED.

4. COMMENT: THE MINISTER DID NOT IN ANY FORMAL WAY "PROTEST" TO ME. HIS REMARKS DID, HOWEVER, EVIDENCE THE GOC'S GRAVE CONCERN. WHILE I THINK THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT IS BEHIND US, THE QUESTION OF THE MODALITIES OF OUR OPERATIONS HERE IS VERY MUCH AN OPEN QUESTION. THOUGH MATALLANA IS UNFORTUNATELY INCENSED, I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND SO FAR AS I CAN TELL, OF THE PRESIDENT; WHILE RIGHTLY DISTURBED AT THE INCIDENT, THEY HAVE FOCUSED VERY QUICKLY ON WHAT IS THE RIGHT POINT IN THE WHOLE MESS, VEZ., THE NEED FOR CLEARER COORDINATION AND RESPONSIBILITY ASSIGNMENTS WITHIN THE GOC. THE SILVER LINING THEREFORE MAY WELL BE A CLEARER DEFINITION OF WHO IN THE GOC DOES WHAT, AND I EXPECT THIS WILL BE FORTHCOMING VERY SOON. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT WE WILL RECEIVE SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE GOC EXPECTS US TO OPERATE. IN THE MEANTIME AS FAR AS THE GOC IS CONCERNED WE ARE VERY MUCH ON OUR GOOD BEHAVIOR.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG TRAFFIC, REPORTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLICE FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 FEB 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D750071-0477  
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